

Sullivan Creek Watershed Ecosystem
Restoration and Stewardship.

MILL POND DAM REMOVAL



Why does the Dam need to be removed?

Mill Pond Dam is part of the Sullivan Creek Hydroelectric Facility owned by the Pend Oreille PUD, but has not produced power for many decades. In 2005 the PUD notified the federal government of its intention to surrender the license to operate the Sullivan Project as a power facility. Because the dam presents a barrier to fish passage and hinders natural riverine processes, it was agreed that Mill Pond Dam would be removed as a condition of surrendering the Sullivan Project license.

Better than before.

Seattle City Light (SCL) is committed to a \$60 Million, 42-year program of watershed improvements and Mill Pond Dam removal is a critical part of the plan to restore native salmonids in Sullivan Creek. Expected benefits include:

- elimination of the man-made barrier to upstream fish passage,
- an increase in the quantity and quality of habitat for native salmonids,
- restoration of natural processes of downstream transport of coarse sediment and large woody debris,
- enhancement of salmonid habitat downstream of the dam through reduced summer water temperatures and increases in water velocity in the area of Mill Pond.

While the removal of Mill Pond Dam means the loss of a local landmark, every effort will be made to restore the natural beauty of the original site while preserving and enhancing the recreation and cultural amenities and opportunities.



Mill Pond Dam presents an artificial barrier that prevents fish passage and hinders natural riverine processes.

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Why is Seattle City Light involved?

While the FERC Surrender Order requires the Pend Oreille PUD to remove the dam, it was evident that the cost would be hugely expensive for the PUD's small customer base. After lengthy discussions the parties to the Boundary settlement agreement process and the Sullivan Surrender process agreed that Seattle City Light would fund the removal as part of a mitigation package that focuses heavily on native salmonid restoration in the tributaries to the Boundary reservoir. Sullivan Creek is the largest of these tributaries and Mill Pond Dam removal is just one of many habitat restoration projects in the Sullivan watershed. In return, Seattle can continue to operate Boundary with few restrictions, an outcome critical to keeping rates low for both Seattle and Pend Oreille ratepayers.

Process and timeline.

Mill Pond Dam removal includes 3 major phases:

1. Remove the dam,
2. Reestablish the natural stream channel throughout the dam impoundment area, and
3. Restore and re-vegetate the area with the ultimate goal of restoring a self-functioning system consistent with the Sullivan Creek channel upstream and downstream of Mill Pond.

SCL will submit the plans for dam removal to FERC by March 2015, with the dam removal and site restoration (including 2 seasons of vegetation planting) to be completed by March 2018. In order to minimize impacts on the community, SCL anticipates a series of informational meetings during the process of finalizing the plans for removal.

For more information, visit:

www.seattle.gov/light/generation/boundary

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